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FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3807
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9823
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 2533
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1599
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7876
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 9037
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC

UNCLAS DHAKA 000612

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DELHI PLEASE PASS TO DEA/BACON
DEA HQ PLEASE PASS TO AGENT PEREZ

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: DEA ADVANCE VISIT TO DHAKA PREPARES FOR SUMMER
TRAINING EVENT

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. DEA Special Agents Tom Brown from the New Delhi regional office and Dan Perez from Quantico met various Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies in preparation for a two week Basic Drug Course to be offered to counter-narcotics officers. Bangladesh's status as a regional transshipment point and the ongoing investigation in to the BD Foods heroin smuggling case highlight the need for this training, scheduled for June 11) 22. Officers from the Department of Narcotics Control, BDR, and police will participate in the training. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) GOB MEETINGS. Agents Bacon and Perez met with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) (the lead agency investigating narcotics crimes), the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) (the paramilitary border security force), and the head of the Customs cell. The BDR impressed the agents with their professionalism both in their enthusiasm for receiving training and their current knowledge of the narcotics trade in Bangladesh, including admitting that Bangladesh was a transshipment point for smuggled narcotics. The head of the Customs cell was not personally knowledgeable on counter narcotics, but was able to bring in staffers to answer questions, while the Criminal Investigation Division of the national police was also enthusiastic about the training. In contrast, both agents reported that the DNC was somewhat ambivalent towards the proposed training event, perhaps reflecting a belief that the only narcotic problem in Bangladesh was phensidyl. They did, however, welcome the training DEA proposed. (NOTE: Phensidyl is a narcotic cough syrup legitimately produced in India, but smuggled over the porous border with Bangladesh and sold to abusers. END NOTE.)

3. (SBU) TRAINING DETAILS. The training will be offered to approximately 30 officers. Based on BDR's enthusiasm and assessment of the existing narcotics scenario, DEA may increase the BDR's allocation of training slots and possibly the Criminal Investigation Division slots as well, while leaving enough DNC officers in the training to maintain a positive working relationship. The DEA is incorporating the feedback from these meetings to customize the course agenda.

4. (SBU) This message was cleared by Agent Bacon.
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